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New York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1873.

Reports of Carlist excesses prevail in Spain. - Dr. Livingstone has been supplied from Unyanyembe. ______ It is estimated that 60,000 persons attended the funeral of the French ex-Emperor.

Senator Wilson and others made statements before the Poland Credit Mobilier Committee, Senator Sherman of Ohio advocated a return to specie payments.

Dr. B. N. Martin lectured on the "Scientific Relations of Prayer," and Prof. G. F. Barker on the "Chemical Discoveries of the Spectroscope," Dr. Joshua Leavitt died. The annual ball of the Infant Asylum was given at the Academy of Music. - A fire in Eighth-ave, and another in Duane-st, caused a loss of \$179,000. - Testimony was given in the Tweed case as to the stolen vouchers. - Gold, 1128, 1124. Thermometer, 38°, 474°, 45°.

The ball last night, for the benefit of the Foundling Infant Asylum, was as successful in netting money for that admirable charity, as it was in drawing together the choicest representation of New-York society.

Two hundred and seventy-one letters were received at THE TRIBUNE office yesterday containing money and orders for from one to one hundred copies each of the Extra Sheet of Lectures and Letters. Several thousand copies were sold over the counter singly to separate individual purchasers.

Another element of complication has been introduced into the contest between the Controller and the Chamberlain. The Controller having removed the bookkeeper of the Chamberlain's office, that sub-official denies that Mr. Green has any control over his appointment or tenure of office, and so declines to go. Meantime there is no promise of any solution of the difficulty, and a new application for an injunction on Mr. John Foley is pending.

A member of an eminent banking firm, exannined before the House Committee of Ways and Means, testifies in substance that it is better to pay a Syndicate an indirect commission on transactions in bonds than a direct one. We print this interesting colloquy today on the third page of THE TRIBUNE. The fact that the banker aforesaid proposes some connection with the new Syndicate should be borne in mind when considering the case.

Further details of the Gilbert Elevated Railway project, elsewhere printed in The Trib-UNE, will reassure those who may have feared that the proposed road would not relieve local needs. A line for the mere purpose of bringing passengers by main lines into the city would not provide much rapid transit for urban and suburban uses. It is now expressly stated that the primary object of local traffic will still be kept paramount.

An inquiry into the cause of the Modoc war, made at the instance of Congress, has brought to light nothing new. It was said, when the outbreak began, that the war might have been averted if the Indians had been discreetly managed; and that is just what the official report shows. They were permitted to roam at will until they thought they would not be removed to their reservation; then they were suddenly pounced upon. So the war began.

to the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Sherman's bill to prepare for a resumption of specie payments, intended as a substitute for Senator Buckingham's measure, was preluded by a long and elaborate speech. The Senator shows the demand, obligation, and necessity for resumption, and then proceeds to discuss the objections and difficulties. His own expedient appears to be a formal declaration by Congress that on and after the 1st of January, 1874, the United States will redeem its notes either with coin, or-at the option of the Secretary-with its five per cent coin bonds. This will fulfill the pledge that the United States will redeem its notes in coin, and, Mr. Sherman thinks, will provide for any contingency of more notes being presented than can be redeemed.

The conference of leading coal operators, yesterday, realized what was foreshadowed by the news first published in our columns. They agreed substantially to restrict competition, to form a general association, and to establish soon a uniform, average price for coal of about \$5 at shipping points such as Rondout, Weehawken, and Elizabethport, making the cost to the consumer in New-York about \$7 per tun, or about \$1 more on the average than the present price. The great operators profess to be satisfied with a fair profit. If they carry the Government of Senor Ruiz Zorrilla in precaution on the part of the druggist, is to religious observance, it should be a day dedique; out the bold scheme of united action contemporation made by him to cut his name off the label, and possibly to cated to the wives and children. God help ness.

plated, the public will be comparatively helpless. The consumers must depend on restrictive legislation, the possibility of dissensions among the great companies, and the fear that the patience of the public may be tried too far by exorbitant rates. The disposition of the companies to encourage direct trade, and to place large and small buyers on an equality, seems to be the only satisfactory feature of the conference.

The lecture of Prof. Barker at Cooper Institute, last evening, which we report in full and illustrate with drawings, was in some respects a hazardous experiment. Treading in the footsteps of Prof. Tyndall, in the same hall, he lectured to almost the same audience, with nearly the same apparatus, upon the very subject with which that eminent physicist concluded his course-spectrum analysis. It would seem, however, that Prof. Tyndall had opened a pathway to public favor which did not close with his departure. The popular interest in science has evidently undergone permanent expansion. Prof. Barker dealt less with the philosophy of science than with its practical results. He succeeded in demonstrating to a delighted audience that the brilliant displays of experiment afforded by his subject, are directly related to the means which it affords for research. The bright lines of color are the handwriting of the elements, by which they may always be known. The practical uses, as recently discovered, of this mode of analysis in manufacturing operations, in detecting adulterations, and in scientific research in murder trials, have never before been brought together in a shape so fitted for popular comprehension.

Attention will be attracted to Senator Wilson's statement before the Crédit Mobilier Investigating Committee, yesterday, rather than to any other point in the investigation. Last Summer, when Mr. Wilson was numbered among those who had been speculating in this suspicious stock, Gen. J. R. Hawley made a speech vehemently denying that the Senator had any part or lot in the business. He said: "I defy the world to prove that he ever took a dollar's interest in any measure which has come before Congress. I defy the whole world to prove that he has a cent's interest in the Northern Pacific, Central Pacific or Southern Railroad, or in stocks, bonds, or contracts of any sort." This speech Mr. Wilson sent to The Troy Whig with a note saying: "I send you a speech of Gen. Hawley. His statement is correct; but I do not wish to write any more letters." He added that he had made but one speculation since he went into the Senate, when he bought a house. It appeared then that this was intended as an explicit denial, though some of the language was vague. It now seems, by Mr. Wilson's testimony, that the investment in Crédit Mobilier stock which he made was not his own; it was his wife's. The evasion is ingenious and complete. 0

A DISPATCH WHICH PAILED TO ARRIVE. There is no reason to anticipate any serious complications between our Government and that of Spain as a result of the question of veracity which has arisen between them. The contradiction is itself rather implied than direct. The Secretary of State has submitted to Congress a note of an unusual character, under date of October 29, 1872, in which he directs the American Euvoy to administer to the Spanish Government one of the most remarkable lectures ever delivered by one power to another. The instructions were as clear and explicit as they were severe, and amounted to little less than a formal arraignment of Spain on the charge of continued duplicify and bad faith, and demanded in a summary manner the punctual and exact performance of the repeated promises made by Spain in relation to emancipation and colonial reforms. It is in the highest degree improbable that a Minister so sagacious and experienced as Gen. Sickles should have neglected to act upon these instructions. The published correspondence, however, threw no light upon this question. We were left to infer that the Minister obeyed his orders; that the presentation of the considerations so cogently set forth by the Secretary of State produced so strong an effect upon the mind of Señor Ruiz Zorrilla and his Cabinet as to induce them to lay before the Cortes a scheme for the immediate abolition of Slavery in Porto Rico. The publication of the correspondence before these salutary measures were accomplished seemed to us extremely impolitic and inconsiderate toward the Spanish Cabinet. But we attributed it to the natural desire of the State Department to lay before the country the record of an earnest and apparently

But the dispatches of yesterday morning from Madrid bring the astonishing news that the President of the Council, in a speech in the Cortes, positively and categorically denied that any correspondence had passed between the two Governments on this subject; that he had instructed the diplomatic representatives of Spain to deny that the Spanish Government had received any notes from Secretary Fish upon the subject of Slavery; and, growing more and more exhaustive in denial, he said he was unaware the existence of a note from any foreign Covernment on the matter; and so as to avoid any room for equivocation he declared that if Mr. Fish had sent any such note to Mr. Sickles the latter had not communicated it to the Government of Spain. It would not be easy to frame a denial more complete and satisfactory than this. It places the Department of State in a position of extreme delicacy. When the correspondence was first published we pointed out the complications which would arise from a publication so indiscreet, but we were not prepared for so prompt and effective a demonstration from the Cabinet of Madrid. The dilemma has no favorable horn. If Mr. Fish knew his instructions had not been carried out in Madrid, there is an apparent disingenuousness in printing this note to create the impression in America that our pressure was the cause of the projected reforms. If he did not know this, the discipline of the Department is extraordinarily lax, and the publication was a piece of reckless thoughtlessness.

successful exercise of our moral influence in a

right direction.

In any event the effect of the incident cannot but be unfortunate. The Spanish Government will be greatly embarrassed in its plans of reform by the suspicion that it had yielded to foreign influence, and if there are any members of our own Congress who care anything for the honor and dignity of our relations with foreign powers, they will require some explanation of an occurrence so unusual and so disagreeable. We may not by strict diplomatic rules have the right to question

country read yesterday the words in which he indirectly accuses our Government of a deception practiced upon our own people. It is highly desirable that this should be explained.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON TRIAL. The letter from Mr. Arinori Mori, the Chargé d'Affaires of Japan, to Professor Whitney, which we published recently, opens the most important question in practical philology ever presented to the world. There is something stupendous about Mr. Mori's plan. It contemplates nothing less than the deliberate rejection of their own language and the adoption of another utterly different one, by the people of an empire of forty millions. Mr. Mori recognizes the impossibility of making a cumbrous language like the Japanese serve as a vehicle for the new ideas and the enermously enlarged relations of the new Japan. He sees the advantages which would result from the adoption of a live and flexible speech like the English, terse and concise, almost free from inflections or grammar. But he shrinks from recommending to his countrymen the terrible labor which is necessary to surmount the difficulties which he has himself devoted years to it to be pruned of its irregular verbs, its spelling and sound. It is easy enough for us to read

Though the tough cough and hiccough plough me

through, Straight through the slough I'll thoroughly pursue," but the acquisition of the true pronunciation of these lines would be a week's work to the average foreigner. Mr. Mori proposes to dispose of this difficulty at once by phonetic spelling. The enterprise of making forty millions of people learn a new language is one so gigantic that the able diplomatist who proposes it may well be excused for trying in every possible way to make the task easier. For this purpose he calls upon the authority best fitted to answer, to know if the desirable modifications are practicable.

It does not seem, at first sight, as if the great difficulty would lie in that direction. It is extremely improbable that any considerable portion of the population of the Islands can be induced to learn a foreign language. The English would not learn French under William and his successors. The Poles will sooner die than learn Russian. The Magyars prefer isolation to the study of German. And even if this difficulty were out of the way the strange and unvarying law of dialect would come into play, and a new language would grow up from the effort to learn English bearing little more relation to the language of Shakespeare than the pigeon English of China, or the Chinook jargon of our North-West coast. There are very ingenious theories to account for all dialect peculiarities, but it has never been made clear why a Cockney should say "Heggs" and not "Ham" to save his life, and why a German should interchange his d's and t's, his p's and b's in a foreign language while pronouncing them correctly in his own. It is probable that however perfect a framework Mr. Mori might be able to present to his countrymen, he would find that by the time a few millions of them had learned English, it would be a language such as neither he nor Prof. Whitney ever dreamed of. But the plan is fascinating and grandiose all the same, and the discussion of it by a man so quick-witted and liberal as Arinori Mori, and a philologist so thoroughly accomplished as Prof. Whitney, cannot fail to be equally entertaining and instructive.

THE PAPER-PATENT CASE.

A proposed amendment to the Patent laws. now before Congress, contains the following clause:

"And no extension granted prior to the passage of this act shall be held invalid by reason of the fact that the cortificate of extension was not annexed before the ex piration of such patent."

This paragraph attracted no attention at first, and it was not until the amendment had passed its second reading that its true intent was discovered. The only patent that would be renewed by it was then ascertained to be the French Mellier patent for making paper out of straw, by the use of alkalies,-a process now extensively employed in the manufacture of printing papers. The patent belongs to the American Wood Paper Company. Its history is unsavory. It was always of doubtful validity-that is to say, its owners claimed that it covered an extensive debatable ground-and probably it might have been defeated if mannfacturers had been bold enough to fight it in the courts. It expired, however, in 1868. The Commissioner of Patents at that time was urged to renew it, but refused. The day after he went out of office a renewal was signed by his deputy; but the courts ruled that an extension obtained under such circumstances was worthless. Inst April the Company attempted to get a special bill through Congress to revive it; but the scheme was exposed, and exposure

killed it. It is estimated that the renewal of this objectionable patent now would add about one cent a pound to the cost of nearly all the printing paper used by newspapers throughout the United States, and result in an immense fortune to a combination of powerful companies who have already been greatly enriched by the monopoly. We presume it is only necessary to call the attention of Congress to this insidious device in order to secure its defeat. Whatever the Mellier patent may have been originally, there can be no question that its owners have made out of it

all they are entitled to. NEW DANGERS FROM DEUGGISTS. There is a point in connection with the two great poisoning cases which have occupied so much of the attention of the public, that scarcely seems to us to have elicited sufficient notice. While the conviction and confession of the defendant place one case on an entirely different plane from the other, which is as yet open to even more than the doubt that must always be accorded until a' trial is finished, these cases have yet one feature in common. It is not disputed that it was easily practicable for the accused to have purchased the deadly drugs. There seems to be no difficulty with the apothecaries. They dispense poisons almost as readily as hair-brushes and soda-water. It is not their poverty but their will that consents. There are restrictive laws about the sale of poisons in Connecticut, in Maryland, in New-York. How does it happen that if anybody chooses to mention rats as the subject of his or her antipathy, arsenic or strychnine is purchasable galore? We assert what we know in saying that this is the fact in this city today, and no questions will be asked of the

the Legislative Body in Spain. But the whole write "poison" thereon. We are not surebarring our objections to capital punishmentthat there was not good reason in the old law that made the sale of poison "present death, in "Mantua."

We are moved to these remarks by the discovery that when we have made all due allowance for the possibility of having our lives endangered by poisons intentionally sold by druggists; by poisons sold by them accidentally, when something else is intended; and by poisons or their equivalent by inefficiency in cases of disease, sold in adulterated drugs,—we have not yet considered all the perils which the apothecary may prepare for us. Dr. Fordyce Barker, in a letter to The Medical Record, which calls forth strong editorial comment from that journal, relates some instances of a systematic perversion of prescriptions on the part of druggists, which, stated under a less authoritative name, we should have deemed incredible. It appears that it is to a great extent the custom with certain druggists, when, by a prescription, a drug is called for that is expensive, to reduce in the preparation the amount named in the prescription. For instance; if in a four-ounce mixture, one drachm of quinine is ordered, but half conquering, and if the English language is to a drachm is given. If, however, the be adopted in place of the Japanese, he wants drug ordered happens to be one which is not at hand in the shop, a substitution is capricious plurals, and its lawless variations of effected. The substitute is usually in itself something of no particular effect. The danger, of course, is most frequently in the absence of the effect intended. Dr. Barker gives, however, three notable instances where the results might have been serious. In one case, the absence of the drug ordered delayed prompt remedy where cropp was indicated, and, had it supervened, would have greatly endangered the patient's life; in the second, the substituted drug brought a severe diarrhea to a lady already much enfeebled; in the third case there was a poison thus administered, which occasioned great distress. Fortunately in each of these cases the close attendance of the physician enabled him to interrupt the unfavorable train of consequences. He verified his suspicions, in each case, by inquiry and investigation at the drug store.

We do not doubt that the measures taken last year for the examination of druggists produced, on the whole, an excellent effect. Since the examination was enforced we have heard of none, or at most of not more than one instance of "accidental poisoning" by prescription, before so frequent. It may, however, be as necessary to guard against the knowledge of druggists as against their ignorance. We put ourselves in the hands of physicians with fear and trembling. We recollect the sneer of the French cynic-that a doctor is one who gives drugs of whose properties he is ignorant, to cure a disease of which he knows nothing, in a human body which he can never understand. But if all the science of the healing art is to be set at naught for the sake of a few dimes to be saved by a dishonest druggist, then are the chances of sick humanity small indeed. We are curious-not to say anxious-to see what reply will be made by the druggists to the strictures of the doctor. The worst substitution we have ever personally witnessed in a drug-store consisted in filling the bottle of 'Aqua Distillata" from the Croton pipe.

SUNDAY SATURNALIA

Speaking to the engine-builders of Cincinnati, a short time since, Gen. Leggett, Commissioner of Patents, suggested that it would be a good thing to change pay-day from Saturday to Monday. "Saturday nights and Sun-'days," he said, "have ruined many men, and brought untold misery upon their families." What Gen. Leggett meant was that workmen are paid off on Saturday night, and not being required, in most cases, to work on Sunday, get drunk and in other ways squander their wages. The remedy, it seems, is to pay such men on Monday. Upon this subject we have of making the buildings we now occupy firesomething to say.

There is no royal froad to wealth and none to knowledge, and none, that we are aware of, to virtue. We have n't much confidence in little recipes, ingenious devices, and promising subterfuges for making men good. The important question is, whether those who make it a point to get drunk whenever they are paid off would not, if Monday were pay-day. get drunk then, keep drunk on Tuesday, and so spoil a week's work? If they must get drunk at all, it seems to us better, at least for their pockets, that it should be upon a nonworking day, and when the indulgence may not be followed by loss of employment. A man may manage to get over his debauch in season to resume his labor, after a fashion, on Monday morning. The consequence of "a 'good time" may not then be so disastrous. The hard-drinking workman is right in drinking his hardest when it will be least expensive to do so.

We would not be understood as saying one word against Gen. Leggett's suggestion. We think well of it. Only we do not want it to be regarded as a remedy when at best it can be nothing better than an uncertain palliative. Moral courage is not a matter of the day of the week. Better than all new arrangements about pay-day, better than any merely artificial precautions, will be a good, solid, serious, honest resolution not to drink alcohol in any form upon any day or upon any night of the week. If there be any manliness left in a workingman he will not specially relish this proposition to put him again into leadingstrings, this plan of treating him as if he were still a child. There is only one precaution which is good for anything in this matter of drinking. Nobody who tampers with alcohol is perfectly safe. He may indulge in it moderately for years and be its victim at last, or he may escape the worst, live a temperate if not a totally abstinent life, and die sober. We are laying down no Procrustean rule for anybody. What we say is, that it is better to run no risk, and there is n't a sensible man in New-York who is in the habit of taking an occasional glass who will not agree with us. It makes no difference to a sober workingman whether he be paid off on Saturday night or on Monday morning. None of his money will go for whisky under any circumstances, while he who is of too flabby a moral constitution to refrain from excess will be as likely to get drunk on Wednesday as on Saturday night. The wisest man does not make a resolution not to become intoxicated. His vow reaches the root of the whole matter; and it is a vew not to drink at all. Again, putting the question of drinking

aside, there ought to be no doubt in the mind of any rational workingman as to the best way of spending the Sabbath. It should be, it is hardly necessary for us to say, a day of rational rest and recreation, and of that charming social intercourse which week-day purchaser. All that will be done by way of avocations do not permit. Apart from its

them when, after looking forward to it through the whole week, it only brings, when it comes, misery and disappointment! When those who have hoped for the society of the husband and the father, deplore, in sad anxiety his absence, or perhaps more bitterly still deprore his presence! What women suffer from drunken husbands, what children suffer from drunken fathers, what mothers suffer from drunken sons, what sisters suffer from drunken brothers, it is in the power of no tongue to say and of no pen to write. It is very easy to laugh at the teetotalers and to make droll references to Mr. Stiggins; but the simple harrowing and heart-breaking fact remains that more than a moiety of all the misery in this world comes of the unbridled propensity for strong drink. We have no monomania upon this subject, and we trust that we are writing upon it in no fanatical spirit; but every man who will think seriously upon the matter, whatever may be his habits, will see at once what it is which impedes all social reforms, which keeps workingmen poor, and which renders crime an apparently insoluble problem. Every one with a heart must feel, and every one with a head must seriously deplore the great evil; we leave every one to determine what is his personal duty in the premises. We are perfectly sure that for workingmen with families dependent upon their labor, the rule of abstinence is the best. Next to this, let the rule of temperance be observed if possible! Let us, at least, have sober Saturday nights and sober Sundays!

The need of buildings that are at least tolerably fire-proof has been sufficiently demonstrated to our citizens. Recent events have not only shown this need, but have elicited in various instances the expression of a wish on the part of those who are putting up buildings to meet, if possible, the general desire of the community. But hitherto the expense of fire-proof building has proved almost an insuperable barrier. No doubt, under these circumstances, the announcement which we published yesterday, from Mr. Arthur Gilman, the architect of some of our finest buildings, that an effective method of fire-proof construction could be adopted which will not add 15 per cent to the cost, must have proved a pleasant surprise. It does not appear that the method proposed will introduce any radical change in the general appearance of our buildings. We shall not be reduced to the alternative, seriously contemplated, of limiting the hight to which walls can be safely carried. We may, in short, be as safe as a European city, if we only set about it. The interest on the additional outlay would be fully repaid by the saving of insurance, if there is much storage of valuable goods. In any case, tenants might be willing to pay more than the interest on the additional cost, for the sake of their additional security.

OUR DANGER AND OUR SAFETY.

If any one will take a look at some of the tall buildings now going up in this city-especially those where all the beams and framing are of wood-and compare them mentally with the process of building up a fire in a furnace preparatory to lighting it, he will be struck by the similarity of design. Everywhere throughout each, the principle seems to be the same; to place the fuel, the combustible material, in alternate layers with that which is less combustible; to leave spaces through the mass to provide a good draft; to utilize the box of walls around it, merely so as to pile it up high. Looking up one of these new buildings before flooring is laid, is like peering up at the sky through a lumber pile. They may not burnbut if not, it is because no fire happens to start in them. The difference between such structures and those of Europe, where every piece of wood is fairly embedded in plaster, tells the whole story of our danger and our possible safety. It remains, however, for some ingenious architect to devise the means proof, without alterations too great for ordi nary purse-strings.

Prof. Benjamin Silliman of New-Haven, in a letter respecting laying telegraph wires underground in cities, points out some of the difficulties which interfered with early efforts in this direction. It appears that gutta-percha covering will not answer for insulation where it is exposed to the action of moist earth and vegetable processes. An element to be carefully considered in carrying out a general plan for underground telegraphs in cities is the facility that must be given for relaying in case of accident or of excavations in the streets for constructive purposes. If, however, the wire is once properly laid under ground in insulating material proof against natural agencies of destruction, the electrical leakage" is very small; so much smaller than is possible with wires in air as to be a great saving to the telegraph company. Prof. Silliman agrees with us in the belief that a large measure of uncertainty and inconvenience in the operation of the telegraph will be permanently removed by the underground plan in cities, which he deems entirely

There was clearly no room for The Imperialist, a weekly journal which once preached imperialism in this city; perhaps there is, however, for The Feder alist, which has just made its appearance in journalism. The "sample copy," which has been furnished to the press, shows that The Federalist is firm in the belief that what the Republic most needs is centralization. It wants "one Government for all affairs of national interest," and it thinks that taxes, railroads, telegraphs, and similar matters of public con-cern are of national interest, and, therefore, should be exclusively in the hands of the National Government. This is frank (if not rank) heresy. Will it be popular f

The alumni of Yale College some time ago undertook to raise for the benefit of their Alma Mater & fund of \$500,000, to be known as the Woolsey Fund. One of their number, Mr. James Knox of Knoxville, Illinois, has just contributed to it \$10,000, which he modestly terms "his mite," and we learn that from all quarters the Committee are receiving the most encouraging answers to their appeal. There could not be a more eloquent testimony to Yale than the existence of such a spirit among its children.

Cases of a singular and fatal disease have occurred at Logan, in Cache Co., Ctah. The patient is attacked by a pain in the left knee; the leg below the tnee, down to the toes, becomes much swollen, hardened, and red; the pain then abates; the swelling recommences above the knee, and extends up to the body, when inflammation seizes the bowels and the patient soon dies. Three cases of this disease have occurred; and the medical man, who has had forty years' practice, says he has never known any thing like it before.

The Union League Club throw open their spacious drawing-rooms to the ladies, for the first time this year, on the 30th of this month. This innovation upon the monastin seclusion of Club life has been proved so desirable in recent years that it may now be considered a permanent feature of the Winter's festivities.

The new King of Sweden is said to be," a jovial nan, who delights in practical jokes." Monarchy is getting to be about the biggest practical joke of the day; so the new King is just the man for the busiTHE COAL CRISIS.

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN THE TRADE. IMPORTANT MEETING YESTERDAY - RADICAL CHANGE CONTEMPLATED-PRESIDENT GOW-

EN'S VIEWS. The coff trade of this city was in great sussense, yesterday, awaiting the result of the confe of the leading men of the great coal companies. The principal result of the meeting was a tacit understand ing that the great companies shall cease to be active competitors, and shall establish an average wholesale price of about \$5 for coal carly this year. The report of a committee, appointed to compile information upon the business of the localities where competition is closest, was considered, and a general discussion took place as to the most effective means of securing harmony of ac-tion throughout the entire coal trade. Mr. E. A. Quintard supported the views of Mr. Gowen regarding direct traffic, and it was understood that henceforth the principal companies will sell small quantities as cheaply a they will those of 1,000 tuns and spward. The plans of the companies are, however, evidently not fully

Mr. Franklin B. Gowen, in an interview yes gave some further facts regarding the plans of the Read ing Railroad Company and the probable future of the coal trade. He said in substance that it was proposes henceforth to hold monthly meetings at which the en-tire coal trade of Pennsylvania would be representedthe individual operators as well as the great companies A uniform price for coal is to be adopted at these meet ings, which will do for the entire trade what the local bodies, such as the Lehigh Board of Trade, do for their respective localities. It is also contemplated to regulate prices so that they shall be comparatively uniform throughout the year.

This is to be done in order that the railroads and canals may carry conveniently the quantity of coal produced, and to enable manufacturers and consumers generally to buy on as good terms one month as another.

Under the present system consumers constantly defer
laying in supplies, expecting that coal may be cheaper a month or two later, or if they do purchase a large sup ply they feel they have lost by the transaction should prices fall afterward, and are unwilling to repeat it. This deranges the coal trade without benefiting the public, and ought to be changed.

Mr. Gowen also said that the operators in the Schuytkill region have hitherto lost heavily by the excessive commissions which were paid in transferring cost from the mines to consumers; beside large quantities were sold purporting to be from a particular mine when it sent only a comparatively small quantity to market, and, of course, when the coal substituted was of inferior quality the character of the mine in question suffered; this could not take place under the new system. As equitable plan has been adopted at Port Richmond for settling the prices of coal, and although the Reading Coal Company is in a minority on the Committee which regulates prices, it sells its own coal at the fixed, curren

Mr. Gowen considers that the prospects of the coal trade during the present year are very favorable so far as regards production. The largely-increased production of last season is nearly all disposed of, the market has been better during the last two months than any other period of the year, and it is believed that the stock of coal on hand at the close of the shipping season of 1872 was no larger than that held at the close of the previous year. The consumption of 1872 may, therefore, be safety set down at more than 3,000,000 of tuns over that of 1871 In making an estimate of the consumption of the season of 1873, the following facts are relied upon to warran the belief that the increase of demand above that of 1872 will be very nearly as great as was that of last seaso over the previous year:

First : The average annual increase during the past ten years has been about 24 per cent of the consumption

the previous year. Second: The great activity of the iron trade during the last 12 months has induced the erection of a larger number of new blast-furnaces than were ever before put up in a single year. Nearly all of these new furnaces, which were in process of erection during the past year, will go into blast early in the coming season. In the regions dependent upon the roads and canals of the Company for a supply of fuel there were, during the last season, 16 new stacks being built, but five of which are yet in blast. Throughout all the iron districts of the country new furnaces are being erected, and it is believed that at least 750,000 of tuns of coal will be required during the present year to supply the demand

of new iron-manufacturing establishments alone. Third : The extension of new railroads late the luterior of the country, especially to the lake ports, which has been prosecuted with great activity during the last two or three years, has opened new markets for Anthra cite coal by introducing it into regions of country hitherto inaccessible, and where wood had been chiefly relied upon for fuel. The statistics of the trade show that for the ordinary purposes of domestic life it requires one tun of coal per annum for each member of the com munity using it as a fuel, but where the centers of manufacturing industry or lake shipping ports are opened by new lines of railway, the consumption per inhabitant generally exceeds that quantity.

Fourth: The very high prices of coal in England will, it is believed, induce the owners of steamships plying between Europe and the United States to draw a proportion of the supply of coal for their vessels from America, than they have heretofore obtained.

Fifth : The exceptionally low price in America during the past year has introduced coal, in competition with wood into districts where it never had been sent before, and it is well known that when the appliances for burning anthracite coal are once introduced, and the advantages of that fuel once understood, it is never dis-

placed by any other.

If the above facts justify the belief that nearly 3,000,000 of tuns more coal will be required in 2873 than were sont to market in 1872, and if by twelve months of steady work during 1872 the increased production of coal over was only about 5,300,000 tuns, it is not unreasonable to suppose that it will be difficult to produce this year any quantity so greatly in excess of the demand as to depress the market to any considerable degree. The Reading Company has prepared for the large increase of trade which is anticipated by constructing 1,000 eight-wheeled

coal cars and 472 eight-wheeled freight and passenger

ars. Regarding the other important change made under Mr.

cars.

Regarding the other important change made under Mr. Gowen's management, in the lousiness of the Reading Railroad—the termination of the contract between that company and the ames Express Company and the addition of the parcel traffic to its regular business—air. Gowen explained that upon the first of September the Company became the express carriers upon all of its own lines. Heretofore the business of carrying express matter and parcels at high speed upon the passenger trains was transacted by the Adams Express. Company, in the name of the Central Express, under a contract by which a monthly sum was paid to this Company, depending upon the amount of the traffic. In the transaction of this business, the Railroad Company furnished the roadway, cars and motive power, and in many instances not only the office room, but the clerics and agents themselves. The freight agents of this Company, at its different stations, thus became the servants of the Adams Express Company, and its most cases received from the latter Company, as compensation, a percentage upon the amount of express business done at their several stations. The result of this was not only to demoralize the force in consequence of the divided allegiance its members owed to two masters—but, as the freight agents resolved a state and a state of the percentage of the amount of business from the Express Company, it became to their stations as possible by express, from which the Railroad Company derived but a small proportion of the receible-instead of by the Railroad Company's own freight times, in which case the entire charges would have gone into the treasury of the Company. The contract between the Railroad Company and the Express Company was therefore terminated. but a simili proportion of the receipts—instead of by the Railroad Company's own freight lines, in which case the entire charges would have gone into the treasury of the Company. The contract between the Railroad Company and the Express Company was therefore terminated, and on the 1st of September, having previously completed its organization and secured proper officers in the cities and large towns, the Company became its own express carriers. The Express Company vivorously opposed this measure, and placed various obstacles in the way of its success. Notwithstanding all these difficulties, however, and notwithstanding all expenses before any receipts are derived from it, the not profits of the Company from the expresses business during the first three months, after deducing all expenses, including those maintaining officers, organization, and horses, before the business was commenced, were greater than the amount received from Adams Express Company during the corresponding three months of the previous year. The net profits of the first month, after taking off all previous expenses incurred in starting the business, and which really represent but about three weeks' receipts for aix weeks' expenditures, were 65-10 per cent less than the amount received from the Express Company during the corresponding month of the year hefore. The net profits for October were one-hair per cent less than the amount received from the Express Company in the month of October, 1871, while the net profits of the class month of the Bacal year were 83 ft-109 per cent less than the amount received from the Express Company in the month of October, 1871, while the net profits of the class month of the stear year of the profits of realisting from that perfect discipline among all